

Agency: UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Request Title: *Repeal Early Learning Plan & Mathematics Plan*

Purpose Statement:

This legislative request seeks to repeal Utah Code §53F-5-212 and §53E-3-521, which require the annual creation and submission of a comprehensive Early Learning Plan and an Early Mathematics Plan by local education agencies (LEAs).

The purpose of this repeal is to reduce administrative burden, increase local control, and increase the focus on student-centered instructional leadership.

What is the nature of your request?

POLICY REQUEST – You are seeking changes to Utah State Code to improve your program/services.

Rationale:

The current code requires LEAs to expend significant time and resources developing detailed plans that are often duplicative of existing school improvement and accountability efforts. This process requires the time and attention of principals and district staff and takes up time that principals and staff could use in instructional coaching, teacher collaboration, and direct student support. By repealing these overlapping requirements the legislature will help reduce the reporting burden on LEAs.

Expected outcomes:

By repealing these requirements, the Legislature will:

Restore Valuable Time: Allow principals and administrators more time to focus their efforts on supporting teachers and improving classroom instruction.

Empower Local Decision-Making: Allow LEAs the flexibility to design and implement early learning strategies that are responsive to the specific, unique needs of their students and communities. Additionally allow LEAs to set local goals aligned with their local data for improvement, oversight, and accountability.

Streamline Accountability: Eliminate a redundant and burdensome reporting requirement and empower LEAs to innovate and focus on programs that produce measurable results.

USB E Lead Point of Contact:

Name: Julie Clark

Email Address: julie.clark@schools.utah.gov

Phone Number: (801) 538-7661

USB E Section: Teaching & Learning: English Language Arts

Name: Molly Basham

Email Address: molly.basham@schools.utah.gov

Phone Number: (801) 538-7529

USB E Section: Teaching & Learning: STEM

POLICY REQUEST

1. **Section(s) of State Code to be addressed (if none, insert "N/A"):**

[53G-7-218](#) & [53E-3-521](#)

2. **What are the suggested legislative solutions? Include code references and suggested language where possible:**

Effective 5/7/2025

[53G-7-218](#). Establishment of early learning plan.

~~[(1) — A local school board of a school district or a charter school governing board of a charter school that serves students in any of kindergarten or grades 1 through 3 shall annually submit to the state board an early learning plan that includes the early mathematics plan described in Section 53E-3-521, including:~~

~~(a) — a growth goal for the school district or charter school that:~~

~~(i) — is based upon student learning gains as measured by the mathematics benchmark assessment described in Section 53E-4-307.5; and~~

~~(ii) — includes the target that the state board establishes under Section 53E-3-521; and~~

~~(b) — two goals that:~~

~~(i) — are specific to the school district or charter school;~~

~~(ii) — are measurable;~~

~~(iii) — address current performance gaps in student mathematics proficiency based on data; and~~

~~(iv) — include specific strategies for improving outcomes.~~

~~(2) —~~

~~(a) — The state board shall:~~

~~(i) — provide model plans that a local school board or a charter school governing board may use;~~

~~(ii) — develop uniform standards for acceptable growth goals that a local school board or a charter school governing board adopts for a school district or charter school under this section; and~~

~~(iii) — review and approve or disapprove a plan submitted under this section.~~

~~(b) — Notwithstanding Subsection (2)(a), a local school board or a charter school governing board may develop the board's own plan.~~

~~(3) — The state board shall:~~

~~(a) — develop strategies to provide support for a school district or charter school that fails to meet:~~

~~(i) — the growth goal related to the state mathematics target described in Subsection (1)(a); and~~

~~(ii) — one of the goals specific to the school district or charter school described in Subsection (1)(b); and~~

~~(b) — provide increasing levels of support to a school district or charter school that fails to meet the combination of goals described in Subsection (3)(a).]~~

53E-3-521. Requirements for early mathematics plan.

~~[The state board shall make rules to:~~

~~(1) — define the components of the early mathematics plan that a local school board or charter school governing board is required to submit under Section 53G-7-218 for mathematics proficiency improvement, including the following four categories:~~

~~(a) — conceptual understanding;~~

~~(b) — procedural fluency;~~

~~(c) — strategic and adaptive mathematical thinking; and~~

~~(d) — productive disposition; and~~

~~(2) — establish a state-wide target using data from the mathematics benchmark assessment, described in Section 53E-4-307.5, for local growth goals described in Section 53G-7-218 regarding mathematics.]~~